REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 12-18 are pending in this case. The present Amendment cancels Claims 1-11 without prejudice or disclaimer and adds Claims 12-18. New Claims 12-18 are supported by the specification at page 18, lines 22-30; page 21, lines 1-21; page 21, line 22 to page 22, line 3; page 22, lines 4-24; and page 23, lines 3-23. No new matter has been added.

The outstanding Office Action objected to the specification as failing to provide proper antecedent basis. Claims 4-5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. ə 112, first paragraph. Claim 9 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. ə 112, second paragraph as being indefinite. Claims 1-2, 6-7, and 9-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. ə 102(e) as anticipated by Tatebayashi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,859,535, hereinafter "Tatebayashi"). Claim 4 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. ə 103(a) as unpatentable over Tatebayashi in view of Doi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,432,947, hereinafter "Doi").

In response to the objection to the specification as failing to proved proper antecedent basis for the limitation of an inactive state where no power is supplied to a general-purpose computer, Applicants respectfully submit that this limitation is supported in the specification at page 19, lines 3-6. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the objection be withdrawn.

In response to the rejections under 35 U.S.C. ə 112, Applicants have cancelled Claim 9, thus the rejection of Claim 9 is moot.

New Claims 15-16 recite features substantially similar to cancelled Claims 4 and 5. In response to the rejection of Claims 4 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. ə 112, first paragraph, Applicants respectfully submit that the limitation of an "inactive state where no power is supplied to a general-purpose computer" is supported in the specification at page 19, lines 3-

6, as stated above. Accordingly, while currently moot, Applicants respectfully submit the grounds of rejection have been overcome.

In view of the cancellation of Claims 1, 2, 6, 7, and 9-11 under 35 U.S.C. ɜ 102(e), the outstanding rejection is moot.

New Claim 12 recites features similar to cancelled Claim 4. New Claim 12 is directed to a general-purpose computer. The general purpose computer

> ... having a central processing unit which can decode data stored in an internal storage mechanism as instructed by a program stored in said internal storage mechanism, comprising:
>
> a loading mechanism, which is integrally arranged on a case of said general-purpose computer, for detachably accommodating an external storage card;
>
> a decoding mechanism configured to decode data read from said external storage card;
>
> a reproduction mechanism configured to reproduce the decoded data decoded by said decoding mechanism, wherein said reproduction mechanism reproduces the decoded music data decoded by said central processing unit,
>
> a power controller that supplies power to said general-purpose computer, wherein said ***power controller supplies power to said decoding mechanism and said reproduction mechanism even if power from a power supply of said general-purpose computer is turned off.***

By way of background, the specification describes an embodiment of Applicants' claimed general-purpose computer including a central processing unit (CPU) 51, a memory card slot 10-1, a memory card 21-1, a memory card driver 151-1 or 151-2, a PCI bus 56, a sound controller 64, a speaker 65, a power controller 73, a bridge 58, and a hard disk drive 67.

The memory card driver 151-1 is connected to a bridge 58 by a USB cable. On the basis of commands issued by a CPU 51, a memory card driver 151-1 cross-authenticates a memory card 21-1 loaded in the personal computer 1. Under the control of the CPU 51, the memory card driver 151-1 stores music data supplied from a hard disk drive 67, which is an

internal storage mechanism, into the authenticated memory card 21-1, which is an external storage medium, via the bridge 58.[1]

The sound controller 64 drives a speaker 65 on the basis of data corresponding to the music supplied via a PCI bus 56 or supplied from a memory card driver 151-1 or 151-2.[2] A power controller 73 is connected to an incorporated battery 74 or an AC power supply. The power controller 73 supplies power to the components of the personal computer 1 and controls the charging of the incorporated battery 74 and the secondary batteries of peripheral devices. In addition, the power controller 73 supplies power to the memory card drivers 151-1 and 151-2 and the sound controller 64 even if the power to the personal computer 1 is off.[3]

Because power is supplied from the power controller 73 to the memory card driver 151-1 and the sound controller 64 independently via the USB interface 68 when the power to the personal computer 1 is off, the memory card driver 151-1 is capable of reading music data from a loaded memory card 21-1, decoding the read music data, and playing the decoded music data on the speaker 65, even when the personal computer 1 is turned off.[4]

Turning now to the applied art, Tatebayashi shows in Figure 1 a digital protection system 100 including a memory card 200, a memory card writer 300, and a memory card reader 300. A user places the memory card 200 in a personal computer 500, the memory card 200 receives, from the memory card writer 300, digital content such as music data via the internet and records the received content on the memory card 200. After recording, the user places the memory card 200 in a headphone stereo 401 which reproduces the contents recorded on the memory card 200 using the headphone stereo 401.[5]

Tatebayashi also describes a mutual authentication control unit 254 that judges whether the memory card writer 300 or the memory card reader 400 in which the memory

[1] See specification at page 20, lines 5-14.
[2] See specification at page 14, lines 9-16.
[3] See specification at page 18, line 22 to page 19, line 6.
[4] See specification at page 21, lines 1-8.
[5] See Tatebayashi at column 8, lines 35-51.

card 200 is placed is an authorized device; if not, the mutual authentication control unit 254 judges that the memory card writer 300 or the memory card reader 400 is an unauthorized device. The mutual authentication control unit 254 then outputs an authentication signal showing whether the memory card writer 300 or the memory card reader 400 is an unauthorized device, to a control unit 280.[6]

However, Tatebayashi does not disclose or suggest Applicants' claimed "power controller that supplies power to said general-purpose computer, wherein said power controller supplies power to said decoding mechanism and said reproducing mechanism even if power from a power supply of said general-purpose computer is turned off." Conversely, in Tatebayashi, power must be supplied to the memory card writer 300 or memory card 400 in order for these devices to function.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that new independent Claim 12 and all claims depending therefrom patentably distinguish over Tatebayashi.

With regard to the rejection of Claim 4 as unpatentable over Tatebayashi in view of Doi, Applicants respectfully traverse, as discussed next. Doi describes that any device on a system bus, if it may be transferred to a low power consumption mode, is allowed to be controlled by a SELECT signal in a manner in which the supply voltages (power lines (a) to (d) of Figure 12) fed from the power consumption reducing unit 40 are individually controlled to a low power consumption state.[7] Also, Table 5 of Doi shows the supply voltage of a main memory 5 and peripheral devices 3 and 4 lowered from 5V to 3.3V based on the SELECT signal. Table 5 also shows the supply voltage of a ROM 8 being reduced from 5V to 0V.

However, individually controlling devices to a low power consumption state is not the same as supplying "power to said decoding mechanism and said reproduction mechanism

[6] See Tatebayashi at column 8, lines 8-20.
[7] See Doi at column 18, lines 43-48.

even if power from a power supply of said general–purpose computer is turned off," as in Applicants' independent Claim 12. Conversely, in Doi, the computer is still ***powered on***, and the individual devices are powered into a low consumption mode. It is respectfully submitted that Doi does not cure any of the above-noted deficiencies of Tatebayashi relative to Claim 12.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal Allowance. A Notice of Allowance for Claims 12-18 is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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